

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method in a data processing system for providing a single automation tool adapter within said data processing system for use with multiple different automation tools, said method comprising the steps of:

each one of said automation tools being an application that interfaces with a device to enact a sequence of automated changes;

said automation tool adapter including a queue listener;

monitoring, by said queue listener, a plurality of clients by monitoring a request queue that is external to said automation tool adapter for messages;

determining, by said queue listener, whether said request queue includes an automation message;

said automation message including a request having parameters in an original format that are to be executed using one of said automation tools, said automation message including a message identifier that uniquely identifies said automation message and a source of said automation message;

responsive to said queue listener determining that said request queue includes said automation message, using an external configuration file to determine whether a particular verb that is included in the automation message is a valid verb, wherein said configuration file includes a plurality of verbs and an association of each one of said plurality of verbs to one of said automation tools, and wherein said particular verb is valid if said particular verb is included in said configuration file;

responsive to determining that said particular verb is a valid verb, said queue listener creating a verb dispatcher within said automation tool adapter;

passing, by said queue listener, said automation message and said particular verb to said verb dispatcher;

determining whether an idle execution thread is available from a thread pool that is assigned to one of a plurality of verb groups to which the particular verb belongs, and wherein each one of said plurality of verbs belongs to one of said plurality of verb groups, and further wherein said configuration file defines a maximum number of concurrent threads that are available to each one of the plurality of verb groups;

responsive to determining that said idle execution thread is available, executing said verb dispatcher on said idle execution thread;

responsive to determining that an idle execution thread is not available, determining whether said maximum number of concurrent threads available to said one of said plurality of verb groups has been reached;

responsive to determining that said maximum number of concurrent threads available to said one of said plurality of verb groups has not been reached, creating a new thread and executing said verb dispatcher on said new thread;

creating, by said verb dispatcher, an automation processor of a type that is required by said particular verb automation message;

translating, by said verb dispatcher, said parameters from said original format to a second format that is required by said one of said automation tools to produce translated parameters;

providing, by said verb dispatcher, said message including said message identifier and said translated parameters to said automation processor;

constructing, by said automation processor, an automation tool command using said translated parameters;

executing, by said one of said automation tools, said automation tool command, said automation tool command including said translated parameters;

in response to a completion of execution of said automation tool command, said one of said automation tools sending a reply to a reply server that is included in said automation tool adapter, said reply being in said second format and including said message identifier;

translating, by said reply server, said reply into said original format to form a translated reply; and

sending, by said reply server, said translated reply to a reply queue that is external to said automation tool adapter.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing a plurality of request queues;

said automation tool adapter including a plurality of queue listeners, each one of said plurality of request queues associated with one of said plurality of queue listeners; and

checking, by each one of said plurality of queue listeners, an associated one of said plurality of request queues for a message.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

each one of said plurality of request queues located in a different one of said plurality of clients.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
determining said second format required by said one of said automation tools utilizing a configuration file that includes a specification of a format for each one of said automation tools.
5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
said original format being an XML document format; and
translating said parameters from said XML document format to a flat file containing a set of name/value pairs, wherein said flat file format is said second format.
- 6.-27. (Canceled)